

REMARKS

A separate letter requests permission to make the needed drawing correction.

The specification has been amended as needed so as to place this application in condition for disposal at the time of the next Official Action.

The claims have been amended as to form, so as to correct the matters objected to under 35 USC 112, second paragraph.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested, for the rejection of the claims as anticipated by or unpatentable over NIELSEN et al., or as unpatentable over MACKEY et al. in view of HAUT et al. or BRET et al.

In NIELSEN et al., the lotion to be sprayed on the absorbent paper is first admixed with a fluid, but forms a liquid mixture in a closed system (page 27, lines 17-21).

This liquid mixture is then sprayed by passing the mixture under pressure through an orifice of the spraying equipment to form a decompressing spray. This is merely the technique of the prior art from which the present invention is distinguished in the introductory material of the present specification.

*Initials
P. (ed) L. (law)*

By contrast, according to the invention, the lotion to be sprayed is sprayed by atomization by means of a stream of gas.

Furthermore, NIELSEN et al. positively rejects the technique of spraying by atomizing by mentioning (page 8 line 2 to page 9 line 8) all the problems and difficulties inherent in the technique of spraying by atomization.

By contrast, the present invention provides a process for depositing e.g. a lotion, despite these difficulties and prejudices.

The object of the present invention is to moisten the paper product as little as possible, ideally only with the lotion, and to distribute the lotion as homogeneously and uniformly as possible over the surface of the product. For the reasons given, therefore, NIELSEN et al. cannot do this.

MACKEY et al., HAUT et al. and BRET et al. teach the application of lotion to absorbent tissue paper, so that the paper tissue is moistened, but are no closer to the present invention than is NIELSEN et al., for the reasons given above.

MACKEY et al. discloses a method for applying a lotion by gravure coating, whereas HAUT et al. and BRET et al. disclose a method of applying lotion on absorbent tissue by spraying, without disclosing the spraying method.

Accordingly, no reference of record nor any proper combination thereof discloses the invention as now claimed and as clearly set forth in amended claim 1. The claims that depend from claim 1 are patentable for that reason and also by virtue of the further features of novelty that they separately recite.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, therefore, it is believed that this application has been placed in condition for allowance, and reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims. The attached page is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE."

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

By



Robert J. Patch
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 17,355
745 South 23rd Street
Arlington, VA 22202
Telephone: 521-2297

August 12, 2002

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Paragraph beginning at line 12 of page 5 has been amended as follows:

The spraying means consist of a [rail] row 18 of spray guns 20 which are placed side by side over the full width of the paper. Each gun 20 has an inlet 22 for feeding the lotion to be sprayed, the said inlet being connected via a line 24 to a tank 26 of lotion which includes a mixer 28. A feed pump 30 is interposed between the tank 26 and each gun 20, the pump having a controlled variable output.

Paragraph beginning at line 9 of page 6 has been amended as follows:

Table A relates to a first series of tests carried out on a paper of the Applicant, of the "facial" type having a grammage of 45 g/m² and intended for depositing, theoretically, 2.6 g/m² of a lotion in the form of an aqueous dispersion, the viscosity of which is 380 cP and the density of which is 180 g/250 ml. The lotion was applied using a pilot machine with a full width of 42 cm and a running speed of the paper of 70 m/minute, the spray [nozzle] nozzles being located 40 cm from the paper sheet. This test was carried out without any extraction.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

1. (amended) Process for depositing, at room temperature, a softening lotion on an absorbent paper product, [especially cellulose wadding,] which lotion is a liquid at room temperature and is of the type comprising one or more emollient active substances as a dispersion or as an emulsion in a volatile liquid vehicle, [especially in water,] characterized in that it consists in spraying the lotion by means of a stream of gas under pressure so as to remove at least part of the volatile liquid vehicle in order to form and spray fine droplets of lotion, having a low proportion of volatile liquid vehicle, which are deposited on at least one face of the paper product.

Claim 3 has been amended as follows:

3. (twice amended) Process according to claim 1, characterized in that the pressure of the spraying gas is greater than 2 bar [and preferably greater than 4 bar].

Claim 4 has been amended as follows:

4. (twice amended) Process according to claim 1, characterized in that the proportion by weight of active substance(s) in the solution is between 1% and 50%[, preferably between 20% and 50%].

Claim 7 has been amended as follows:

7. (twice amended) Paper product, to at least one face of which an emollient lotion has been applied using the process according to claim 1, characterized in that the amount of lotion applied to the said face is equal to at least 1.5 g/m², [preferably at least 2 g/m²,] and in that the lotion present on the said face can be easily transferred to the skin of a person using the paper product.